

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A niobium powder having a nitrogen content of about 500 - about 7,000 ppm by weight, and having a mean particle diameter of at least about 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  and less than about 3  $\mu\text{m}$ . Preferably the niobium powder has a reduced content of impurities. A sintered body of the niobium powder. This sintered body generally has a specific leakage current index of not more than about 400 [ $\text{pA}/(\mu\text{F}\cdot\text{V})$ ]. The capacitor having (i) an electrode composed of the sintered body, (ii) a counter electrode and (iii) a dielectric intervening between the two electrodes exhibits good leakage current characteristics.

10049102-011402